



## MUST Equips Health Facility Leaders with Leadership and Management Skills



The First Mile Community Health Program, a project under the Department of Community Health, Faculty of Medicine (FoM), Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) organized a training for health Facility Leaders in-charge in leadership and management skills.

The training took place on July 8, 2022 in Mbarara city at the Silverback Hotel under the theme “Improving the Quality of Community Placement Experience in Southwestern Uganda”, and was the second in the series which falls within the framework of Continuing Medical Education (CME).



Dr. Gad Ruzaaza interacting with participants during one of the training sessions

The training attracted the participation of 20 health facility workers as trainees, and was officially opened by Dr. Gad Ruzaaza, a senior coordinator for Community-Based Education Research and Service (COBERS) and a Community Health Specialist from the FoM.

Dr. Ruzaaza enlightened participants about COBERS, and described the initiative as one of the pillars upon which MUST was established. He stated that MUST was established in 1989 on the philosophy of community-based education (CBE) as a way of extending health services to the communities.

“Through community-based education, the First Mile Health Program was born, which literally means moving with the common people to make their lives better.

COBERS involves setting up a participatory community, a collaborative environment, as well as participatory and collaborative research - all aiming at transforming society. The concept of Leadership Community Placement (LCP) which involves management and leadership practices, and service learning, is a student-led project that supports health systems,” Dr. Ruzaaza explained

The rich training package included community entry and diagnosis, mentoring experiences, problem prioritization, evidence-based planning, supervisory roles, public relations, and customer care, among others.



Mr. Moses Ntaro facilitating one of the training sessions

Associate Professor Edgar Mulogo, the Head of the Department of Community Health, MUST and Program Director, First Mile Community Health Program, facilitated the session themed “Evidence-based Planning in Health Care Provision”. He told the trainees about the role of evidence-based planning within Uganda’s health system, and encouraged the health facility managers to incorporate evidence-based planning into their health facilities as recommended by the Ministry of Health.

The trainees were also edified on the necessity of acquiring and applying modern public relations competencies as a valuable tool that would enable them render better services to their customers. The university’s Public Relations Officer, Ms. Angela Nakato urged the facility leaders to work towards branding the physical space at their health facilities, and make maximum use of digital platforms, as these will not only

improve on their visibility and attract more business, but also will leave behind a lasting impact on the image about the facilities.

As a means of contributing towards the well-being of communities and society through environmental and social measures, Ms. Nakato encouraged the participants to organize periodic trainings for their employees tailored in areas of public relations, client satisfaction, cooperate branding, and cooperate social responsibility “The community members will identify with you, and call you their own. Therefore, I’m urging you to have a different face from that in the prescription room”, she intimated.



Ms. Angella Nakato Muyingo addressing the trainees during one of the sessions

The training culminated with a certificate awards ceremony to the trainees, graced by the University Secretary, Mr. Melchior Byaruhanga. In his closing remarks, Mr. Byaruhanga expressed gratitude to the program coordinators and the health facility leaders for the partnership between MUST and health facilities within the MUST catchment in South-western Uganda.



The University Secretary, Mr. Byaruhanga Melchoir giving his remarks

“As a university, we appreciate Prof. Mulogo, Mr. Ntaro, and your team for this initiative meant to assist the government in training health professionals right from undergraduate level to health facility leaders. We are also glad to have health facility managers accepting to be trained, receiving our staff, and mentoring our students who always come to the community for year training placements. We are hopeful that this collaboration will continue to grow and yield much more fruits.” The University Secretary appreciatively made his remarks.

Ms. Biira Yolecy, on behalf of Bugoye Health Centre III in Kasese District, credited the team behind the First Mile Health program for organizing the CME which has equipped them with management skills and the requisite competencies in public relations. This, she said, will be undoubtedly useful in managing the health facilities in their respective capacities. In her recommendations to the organizers, she pointed out the need of expanding such a training to all health care providers at various health facilities. Ms. Biira also suggested that the training be extended to at least a week in order to allow more learning and interaction time between trainers and trainees, thus enabling the health facility leaders to maximally benefit from it.

Participants in this training session included facility leaders from Lyantonde Hospital, Lwengo HC IV, Kisoro Hospital, Bugamba HC IV, Muko HC IV, Rugazi HC IV, Bwindi Community Hospital, Bwizibwera HC IV, Rushere Community Hospital, Bugoye HC III, Hamurwa HC IV, Ishongororo HC IV, Ruhoko HC IV, Kabuyanda HC IV, Nyamuyanja HC IV, Rwekubo HC IV, Rukunyu Hospital, Kibiito HC IV, Bukuku HC IV, and Kinoni HC IV.

## Ubuntu project supports over 300 Refugees in Nakivaale Refugee Camp



In order to assist the Government of Uganda achieve her ultimate mission of inclusive and accessible health care delivery, various local and International agencies are extending health services to refugee communities.

It is against this background that a multidisciplinary team of students in the Faculty of Medicine of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) provided health services to children, adults, and the elderly living in the Nakivaale refugee settlement, located in Isingiro district.

This noble-minded and heartwarming activity was held over the weekend of ??? during a community outreach exercise to the Health Centre III (HC III) located within the Nakivaale Refugee catchment area under the auspices of the “First Mile Project 2.0 Ubuntu Project”.

The purpose of the outreach was to raise awareness on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), as well as administer a baseline survey which would enable the refugees know their individual and collective health and wellness status. The multidisciplinary team of 70 comprised of health professional students, plus some supervisory staff from the Departments of Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine and Surgery, and Medical Laboratory Science respectively, who rendered a myriad of services to the refugees, including screening of both communicable and non-communicable diseases (e.g. HIV, hepatitis B, Hypertension, Diabetes), health status assessment (e.g. measurement of Body Mass Index), medication prescribing, patient counseling, family planning among others.

According to Dr. Grace Nambooze, from the Department of Nursing that led the team from MUST, the turn up was good and the community members (refugees) were positively receptive towards the services offered to them.

“We have had a good turn-up and a cooperative group of community members, and a lot has been shared with them. The focus of this group was to sensitize the refugees and the locals that reside nearby about the prevention and treatment of Non Communicable Diseases which are among the leading causes of death in Uganda. Several conditions have been reported to our team and advice was given to them accordingly. The students have been committed to serve the community and we encourage them to keep up the spirit,” Dr. Grace Nambooze stated.

Dr. Nambooze keenly observed that more women showed up for the exercise. Thus, she encouraged the male gender to go to health centers and know their health status since good health is a fundamental human right for all.



Dr. Grace Nambooze (far left) supervising the students



Registration desk for capturing biographic data



R- Community education on Primary Health Care issues



Giving back: Students donated essential items like soap, sugar, clothes and shoes.

She concluded by thanking the management of MUST and other partners in the likes of Medical Teams International and Reproductive Health Uganda for the support rendered in making the community outreach exercise a success story.

One of the refugees of Congo origin, who preferred to remain anonymous verbalized that a friend had informed her about the outreach a few days prior, and that is how she was able to get the information to be able to attend. She further explained that upon arrival, she was readily attended to by the “doctors” (health professional students). She was however worried about the fact that she was not able to get the prescribed drugs because they were not available at the health center. It is worth mentioning that a non-negligible segment of the patients needed either medications or simply someone to talk to.

In response, Dr. Barbra Nekesa, a medical expert from Medical Teams International, stated that the pharmacy receives a consignment of essential medications from the suppliers weekly on Tuesdays, the only day when the pharmacy is officially open to the public.

She went ahead to thank the MUST team for a job well done and reassured the team that drugs will be available for all the prescriptions given to the patients, except for patients with specialized cases.

On his part, Emmanuel Mangeni, a nursing student in the Department of Nursing’s completion program, weighed in and announced that there is mobilization for psychologists, Psychiatrists, and Ophthalmologists to also be part of outreach the following year.

## Language A Major Challenge at the Outreach

Over 300 refugees of Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Somalia origin respectively showed up for the free services offered by MUST. This invariably resulted in backed-up queues and exacerbated by fact that the majority of the refugees were non-English speakers, originally from Rwanda, DRC, Burundi and Somalia. The commonly spoken language was Swahili, and yet the university team had only three Interpreters of the language (Emmanuel Mangeni, Bonabona Florence, and Muhanguzi Pius), who nevertheless did a phenomenal job.



Community orientation



*Getting feedback: Emmanuel Mangeni Bonabona translating as one of the beneficiaries is giving his feedback.*



Emmanuel, who is a student of the Bachelors of nursing degree completion program at MUST explained that he learnt Swahili during his interactions with Kenyan nationals in Tororo District.

“I didn’t learn Swahili from school, my home district is Tororo, which borders Kenya. I was able to quickly learn and master the Swahili language through my interactions with the many Kenyans in my neighborhood when I was growing up,” he explained.

He concluded by encouraging his colleagues to take time and learn the Swahili language, as this will ease communication in their respective areas of professional practice.

Similarly, Florence on her part verbalized that she learnt the language from her hometown which is mostly inhabited by Rwandese.

In a bid to promote Swahili, the government of Uganda has announced in the previous month that all primary and secondary schools are now required to teach Swahili as a national language after English. However, it is worth noting that there is an appreciable need for Ugandans to learn many languages, as the country is a melting pot of different foreign languages and cultures.

# RUFORUM Pledges Support Towards Innovation Based Education to MUST



On July 14, 2022, the Executive Secretary of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) **Professor Adipala Ekwamu** paid a fraternal visit to Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) to appraise the state of the collaboration between MUST and RUFORUM.

During the courtesy visit, Prof. Adipala met with several University leaders, including the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration (Prof. Tushaboomwe-Kazoba), Faculty Deans, Directors, and the team from PHAMBIOTRAC.



In his remarks, Prof. Kazooba thanked Prof. Adipala for choosing MUST. He added that the staff and students are more than ever encouraged to carry out research and innovation to address critical needs and challenges in our community.

“The Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITT) has been able to support innovators from both students and staff, going from prototype to a finished product. Some have been recognized at national, regional, as well as at international level”, he pointed out.

Prof. Charles Tushaboomwe- Kazooba DVC F&A

Later in the session, the various Deans in attendance presented their respective faculty goals and aspirations in relation to RUFORUM's mission, which is "to strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions and governments"

This was preceded by a tour of a few teaching and research facilities in the University. During the tour, Prof. Adipala inspected the following facilities: The PHARMBIOTRAC museum for of herbal and natural products, various laboratories and pharmaceutical production units, the PHARMBIOTRAC Botanical Garden, the animal research facility and the different pharmaceutical, cosmeceutical and nutraceutical units. Students and some scientists exhibited various innovations and products made at the university. These included, among many others Beard Balm - a remedy to grow beards; Blackjack Tea - a remedy for ulcers; Plectrantinc - an organic product used in the fattening of poultry and pigs; Body Wash Herbal Soaps; Cough Syrups; etc. It is worth noting that all these products are made from pure and organic ingredients using locally available natural raw materials, with no artificial additives.



In his speech, Prof. Adipala applauded MUST for its innovations, and promised to encourage all RUFORUM leaders to pay a visit to visit MUST, learn more, and offer support where it is needed. He further explained that forging meaningful collaborations and actively engaging in strategic networking are essential building blocks to success in the 21st century. He also advised MUST to harness practical business ideas and embark more aggressively on proposal writing in order to attract potential investors in higher education, versus depending on government funds as the only source of sustainability.

Prof. Adipala then invited MUST to participate at the upcoming RUFORUM meeting due to take place in December 2022 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

He promised to request government ministries, especially that in charge of science, technology and innovations to work with universities such as MUST for better service delivery, because universities harbor experts and innovators that are needed to steer Uganda into a robust and full-flavored technology-based economy.

RUFORUM is a network of 147 African Universities with a three-fold strategic objective: a) Building synergy from networks of specialization to develop quality human resources and capacity required to intensify and increase Africa's agricultural productivity and competitiveness; b) Ensuring the products, processes and knowledge developed through university research directly respond to and are used by value chain actors in the agri-food system to catalyze transformation; c) Marshalling resources and strategically allocating them to enable African universities to transform into viable institutional entities responsive to national aspirations and conditions through intensive knowledge-sharing and collective action.

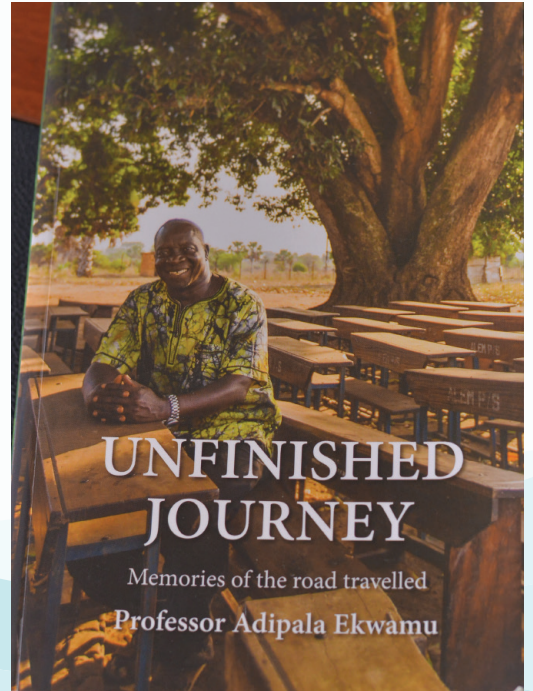


Prof. Adipala listening to the remarks by DVC F&A

Prof. Adipala also serves as the Director for Research and Education Agency (RAE), a Non-Profit Organization with a mission to promote access to education, agricultural technologies and basic health services to rural communities in Uganda.

He is an impassioned champion of human capital development in Africa as the engine of the continent's unstoppable progress, especially in fostering rural transformation and strengthening innovation capacity to boost the economic growth of the mother continent.

Prof. Adipala donated 10 copies of his book titled: “unfinished Journey” to the MUST library and Prof. Kazooba received the gift on behalf of the university.



## PHARMBIOTRAC Incubatees Training Workshop



Incubatees with Prof. Adipala



The Mbarara University of Science and Technology PHARMBIOTRAC Incubation Center in partnership with Cam-Tech Uganda has yet enrolled a new batch of 15 teams of incubatees. The group constitutes the second cohort of trainees, adding unto the first group of 15 teams that was retained the previous year. The intention of the incubation program is to train the teams to accelerate their innovations from ideation to commercialization. This is meant to be accomplished by equipping them with skills in business plan development, financial management, grants writing and reporting, Intellectual Property, protocol approval processes, providing a wide range of peer-to-peer engagement opportunities, etc. Incubatees are also given full and open access to MUST facilities, including laboratories, the PHARMBIOTRAC pharmaceutical production facility, the CAMTech Co-creation lab, Business Clinic, etc.

Cohort II of the trainees has an appreciable number of MUST students, primarily from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and their alumni. Out of the 15 innovations, 4 (26.7 %) are led by Pharmaceutical Scientists, 2 (13.3 %) by MSc Pharmacognosy students, 2 (13.3 %) by PHARMBIOTRAC PhD graduates, 1 (6.7%) by MUST staff, and the rest 6 (40 %) by the private sector from outside MUST.

Pharmaceutical Scientists are graduates of MUST that focus on drug discovery, development and manufacturing. They are not pharmacists, who on the other hand have in the recent decade seen the scope of their practice shift from product to patient-centered focus, thereby complementing the work of other healthcare professionals as medication experts in a multidisciplinary team, for better patient outcome.

As MUST celebrates 10 years of training Pharmaceutical Scientists this year, it is becoming increasingly evident that this breed of scientists is on the right track of transformational drug development and manufacturing in the pharmaceutical industry.

PHARMBIOTRAC, in partnership with CamTech Uganda uses a 15-step incubation ecosystem to guide the incubation process. Briefly put, these stages cover: application, scientific writing workshops, Project Qualification Review (PQR), prototyping, regulation, Intellectual Property (IP), business clinic, commercialization, among others.

In an effort to ensure that these innovations succeed in the market, PHARMBIOTRAC awards seed grants ranging from USD 2000 - 5000 to each team. This financial support is aimed at enabling the incubates purchase reagents, acquire raw and packaging materials; register their companies and trademarks for the innovations; facilitate the prototyping phase, help with the development and optimization of product quality attributes to meet regulatory and consumer requirements; pay for product certification fees to regulatory bodies; etc.



PHARMBIOTRAC museum

From the above perspective therefore, PHARMBIOTRAC organized a workshop to train its second cohort incubates in the areas of product regulation, company registration, Intellectual Property (IP), business management, among others. The 5-day workshop which took place from July 11 – 17, 2022 brought in expert facilitators from Jena Herbals Ltd, The Consortium of enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development Ltd (CURAD), and the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB).

The incubates were led to sharpen their skills and deepened their knowledge and understanding in a wide range of thematic areas such as Natural Product Development and Manufacturing of herbal medicines, cosmeceuticals and nutraceuticals, Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP), Business/Company Development and Management, Intellectual Property (IP), and Business/Company Registration.

For details on the different innovations under the PHARMBIOTRAC incubation clinic, visit [pharmbiotrac@must.ac.ug](mailto:pharmbiotrac@must.ac.ug)

**Jimmy Ronald Angupale** (PhD Fellow), Product Development Officer, PHARMBIOTRAC – MUST



Incubatees presenting their products to visitors



The team visits the PHARMBIOTRAC Museum of product exhibition

## CAMTech commended for prioritizing health innovations during the launch of the Regional Communications Infrastructural Program

On July 21, 2022, a delegation from the National Information Technology Authority - Uganda (NITA-U) visited Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) to appreciate the achievements the institution has registered since it was connected to the National Backbone Infrastructure.

NITA-U is an autonomous statutory body established under the NITA-U Act 2009, to coordinate and regulate Information Technology services in Uganda, and is operating under the general supervision of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance.

NITA-U is currently supporting MUST and CAMTech (Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies) with free internet connection at a suitably high speed of 100 Megabits per Second (MBPs) to support students and staff innovation activities, online learning, general administration, and research work. It should be noted that the two institutions are collaborating in designing solutions which offer practical medical solutions required in the treatment of specialized conditions at the Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital and other Health Facilities.

Dr. Data Santorino, the Uganda country manager CAMTech, commended NITA-U for connecting CamTech to the National Back-bone Infrastructure. This, he explained, has enabled them to develop high impact health innovations that address community challenges. It is through such support that MUST and CamTech now house a teaching facility (the Simulation center/Sim4Life) which trains health practitioners on hands-on skills and provides them an opportunity to apply theory and gain experience in skills or procedures that would otherwise be difficult without potentially putting patients at risk, such as managing emergency situations and resuscitation. A total of 6 universities in East and Central Africa have benefited from simulation centers; these include Muni, Lira, Busitema, MUST, Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania and one University in Nigeria

“Innovations need high speed Internet connectivity, which is quite costly for innovation centers like CamTech. However, the NITA-U support has made life easier for institutions like CamTech and MUST” noted, Dr. Data As part of the delegation, Hon. Margrate Ayebare Bwebyambu, the Woman Member of Parliament representing Mbarara District, and member of the Parliamentary Health Committee joined the rest of the team on a guided tour of CAMTech exhibition stalls. In her remarks, she commended NITA-U for supporting Institutions like MUST with free high-speed internet connection, as this will ipso factopromote scientific learning and unarguably advance a qualitative research agenda in the university.

Hon. Ayebare pledged to report the innovations done at MUST through CamTech to the Parliamentary Health Committee in parliament for more Government support, and for the creation of an enabling environment for commercialization and uptake of the products.

“I congratulate NITA-U for playing a critical role in prioritizing the rollout of critical ICT infrastructure such as the National Backbone Infrastructure, the Government Data Centre and the Transmission sites in Uganda which have all enabled and supported the Government in the delivery of efficient online and digital-based services such as financial transactions, revenue collection, virtual learning platforms, among others. We are happy that NITA-U Uganda, through the World Bank, prioritized Ankole sub region to extend IT services which provide for a smooth running of government entities in delivering public services while saving on the cost” noted Hon. Ayebare.

The Regional Communications Infrastructure Program (RCIP) – Uganda Project is funded with funds from the International Development Association (IDA) - World Bank to the tune of USD 75 million. Uganda is the eighth country in Africa to benefit from this program which attempts to alleviate the connectivity issues in the area.

Through RCIP, NITA-U has established a total of 37 free public internet pools in the Ankole sub region to enable the general public and Government entities such as MUST, the Central Police Station (CPS) Mbarara, the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) West, the Mbarara District Local Government, the Mbarara City Council Authority, Empower Youth in Technology (EYIT), CamTech Uganda, among others.

As a global network of academic, clinical, and business partners, CAMTech is striving to hasten the development of high-quality, yet reasonably priced medical technologies to solve health-related problems in Low-and-Middle-Income Countries (LMIC). Housed at MUST, it seeks to foster and develop an innovative culture using a multidisciplinary strategy. Through its innovation eco-system, CAMTech has over time proven its worth within the MUST community, and has also helped other organizations and sister academic institutions in Uganda embrace innovation.

Sim4Life is a medical simulation space at MUST, designed to provide immersive learning experiences for learners and industry professionals- and would not have achieved its milestones without it being connection to the National Backbone Infrastructure providing the facility with free high-speed internet.

It is worth noting that, NITA-U also launched the Regional Communications Infrastructural Program (RCIP) at an event which held at Igongo Culture Centre, Mbarara, on the same day of July 21, 2022 when they visited MUST.



# Pictorial for the NITA-U event in Mbarara



# CSR: Medical Emergency Response in Kisoro District

On the weekend of July 22-24, 2022, a team of 40 undergraduate students and 4 Master of Public Health (MPH) students from the Faculty of Medicine (FoM), Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), with support from the First Mile Community Health Program in the Department of Community Health (DoCH), conducted a 3-day Emergency Response Outreach campaign in Bunagana town council, Kisoro district, Southwestern Uganda. This dedicated team comprise of students of Human Medicine and Surgery (MBCHB), Medical Laboratory (MLS), Nursing (NS), Pharmacy (PHA), and Pharmaceutical Sciences (PHS). Using their varied skills, and with the technical guidance of the supervisors from DoCH, they successfully conducted a Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) exercise, which is an innovative methodology for mobilizing communities to completely eliminate open defecation (OD). A deworming exercise for children under five was done, and disinfection of the community using chlorine was effected as part of the operations of the outreach. These targeted interventions did not only benefit the locals, but also came as a highly appreciated health crusade to the refugee communities in Bunagana town council.

The team from MUST was welcomed by the Kisoro district local government leadership led by the Local Council 5 (LC5) Chairperson, the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and the Deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC). The team was subsequently granted permission by the leadership of the locality to conduct the emergency response outreach.

The team leader, Associate **Prof. Edgar Mulogo**, Head of Department, Community Health, and program director of the First Mile Community Health program at MUST thanked the Kisoro district local government leadership for the warm welcome.

*“As MUST, we are dedicated to responding to community needs in our catchment area,(for which Kisoro is part of) through health outreaches and other health service delivery programs. Early this month, on July 6-7, 2022, we worked with local authorities here to map the affected areas where we found the glaring challenge of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Bunagana Town Council. As a team, we plan to deworm children under 5 years, sensitize the community on sanitation, and disinfect six villages in Bunagana Town Council. We hope that our partnership with Kisoro district local government will be strengthened and sustained through these engagements,”* Prof. Mulogo softly explained as he addressed the leaders.

According to the Assistant CAO **Mr. Rukundo Monassey**, Kisoro district, particularly the Bunagana town council, is experiencing an influx of refugees due to the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This has mounted a significant amount of pressure on the already strained healthcare system, and by extension raising concerns of poor sanitation, insufficient drugs, an overstretch of health workers, etc.He continued by acknowledging MUST for coming in to assist with the aggravating health and sanitation issues plaguing the community.

*“In the recent past, Kisoro has experienced many disasters such as landslides; and this time around, an increasing number of refugees due to conflicts from the neighboring countries. The central government and other agencies should give us more attention and assist us in addressing these challenges. The situation might worsen during the rainy seasons when diseases such as cholera could spread uncontrollably within the communities,”* he expressed concern.

*“This outreach has come at the right time because we have a lot of health needs in our community. Your coming here is an answer to our rising health concerns. We hope to have long-lasting interventions intended to achieving a healthy Bunagana town council, and a desirable district. MUST is fulfilling the principle of decentralization through taking services nearer to the people. I would like to thank you for choosing this community. This will inspire and help both the refugees and host populations stay clean and safe. We are going to add MUST on the list of our implementing partners to help us whenever need arises,”* Mr. Rukundo highlighted as he concluded his remarks.

On his part, the Kisoro District LC5 chairperson Hon. Abel Bizimana, welcomed the initiative of organizing emergency response outreaches within the communities, especially those targeting vulnerable groups of people like the refugees. He briefed the team from MUST about the historical background of the Kisoro district, which in his opinion should be used in identifying and designing health intervention plans for better service delivery. He remained hopeful that the presence of MUST in Kisoro would create a long-lasting impact in the region.

While flagging off the team to kick start their activities in Bunagana town council, Mr. Robert Tukamuheebwa, the deputy RDC for Kisoro district local government assured the everyone of reinforced security detail, and pledged to offer every necessary support the team would need.

At the end of the 3-day long exercise, a total of 1,120 children under five years old, coming from over 100 households were dewormed, and a Community Led Total Sanitation exercise of Bunagana town council was done in the villages of Kibaya, Gatsibo, Kanyampiriko, Nyarutovu, and Kara. Chlorine was used to kill germs that could otherwise potentially cause an outbreak of cholera as a result of widespread open defecation practiced in these areas.

One of the community health workers of Gatsibo village disclosed with utter disgust that all the pit latrines in the host communities quickly got full when refugees stormed the area, and that the only available option for the overflowing population is for them to defecate in the open fields. He thanked MUST for coming to their rescue by disinfecting the highly infested areas before the rains start. Otherwise, a risk of cholera and typhoid outbreak might emerge from running rain waters sweeping the fecal matter to unwarranted places.

According to security sources in the locality, an estimated 80,000 Congolese Nationals escaped to seek refuge in Uganda when rebel fighters launched an attack in their locality in DRC. Whereas the government of Uganda did set up an official center to receive refugees at Nyakabande Transit Center (NTC) in Kisoro District, most refugees decided to stay at Bunagana, thus mixing with the local populations. This could mostly be due to the fact that a large number of the refugees have hopes of returning to their home country when, and if the situation stabilizes. Currently, many of these refugees reside on verandas, uncompleted structures, gardens, and compounds of the host community. Because of the increased numbers, open defecation is wide spread, hence poor sanitation abounds.

Joseph Selumondi Nsaba, a resident of Busanza village, Bunagana Town council verbalized that through this outreach, the natives and the refugees will gain awareness of safeguarding themselves from diseases caused by poor sanitation. He appealed to other benevolent agencies and organizations out there to step up with similar outreaches, especially with the advent of soaring numbers of refugees that have come into the area. "This comes with not only security threats, but also poses a health hazard," he concluded.

The outreach exercise that took place in Kisoro District is just one of the unique activities undertaken by the First Mile Community Health Program that aims at strengthening health service delivery in communities in need.



*Figure 1: Dr Gad Ruzaaza, the senior coordinator Community Based Education Research and Services (COBERS) addressing the Kisoro district leadership on behalf of the team at the entry meeting chaired by the LC5 chairperson of Kisoro district local government: At the front L-R Associate Professor Edgar Mulogo, the Head DoCH; Hon Abel Bizimana, the LC5 chairperson of Kisoro district local government; Mr. Robert Tukamuhebwa the deputy RDC for Kisoro district local government.*



Figure 2: MUST students handover a box of dewormers to Mr. Ismail Ndayambaje, the mayor of Bunagana Town council, Kisoro District: These were used in the deworming exercise



Figure 3: MUST students at it: Spraying the community with chlorine to kill germs likely to cause a WASH-related outbreak



Mr. Rukundo Monassey (CAO Kisoro district) addressing the team



The team during the briefing session at Kisoro district council hall



A group photo with Kisoro district LC5, Deputy RDC and Asst. CAO





# Annual Cancer Color Run: Give Hope to Every Child with Cancer



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH), Global Health Collaborative (GHC) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) organized the **6th annual Uganda Cancer Color Run**, a marathon that took place on July 24, 2022. The theme for this year was “Give hope to every child with Cancer”. The main goal of this annual event is to create awareness in the community about cancer in children, and the need to seek early treatment which is available at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital. In this light therefore, the run seeks at raise funds to support the care of children with cancer. The target for this year’s event was to enroll 1,000 runners, and raising five million Uganda Shillings.

According to Dr. Stephen Asiimwe, this year’s effort was very successful as more than 1,000 people participated in buying t.shirts and running/walking. We raised significant amounts of resources locally. The awareness of the cancer services at MRRH has increased in scope and appreciation. Clearly more efforts are needed to maintain the skilled unit staff and supplies to keep up with increased demand.

Dr. Kumbakumba Elias, the Head of Department of Pediatrics and Child Health reports that the run has achieved tremendous success and yielded favorable outcomes over the past five years since it was first instituted. He noted that MRRH is the only center that manages childhood cancers in western and south-western Uganda.



Excitement of getting to the finishing line



Children that participated in the run

Dr Kumbakumba urges the MUST and MRRH communities at large to continue to support this noble and life-saving initiative by participating in one way or the other. This means Physically taking part in the five-kilometer run, or simply purchasing branded T-shirts produced annually for this event. He adds that cash contributions and other forms of support are welcomed, and he thanks all the partners, organizations and individuals that have contributed towards this noble cause over the years. The 18-bed capacity pediatric cancer ward at MRRH became operational in May 2017. Full board care is provided to over 150 children newly diagnosed with cancer annually, and over 500 children are currently receiving care here. The facility is supported by a highly trained, well-motivated multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals, including pediatric oncology specialist, Pharmacists and Nurses, etc



L-R Annet Kembabazi, Dr. Steven Assimwe programme Director GHC-MUST MGH, Dr. Barnabas Atwiine the pediatric Oncologist, Mr. Pablo the MC, and Dr. Howard Weinstein, Pediatric Oncologist MGH Children Hospital.

According to the Mbarara Regional Cancer Center work report for the financial year 2020/2021, the cancer survival rate has now risen by two-fold to about 50%. The same report reveals that the most common cancers seen in the pediatric population are Wil's tumor, acute lymphocytic leukemia, Hodgkin's lymphoma, Osteosarcoma, Acute myeloid leukemia (AML), and Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS). The center also saw some cases of benign hematological conditions such as sickle cell anemia



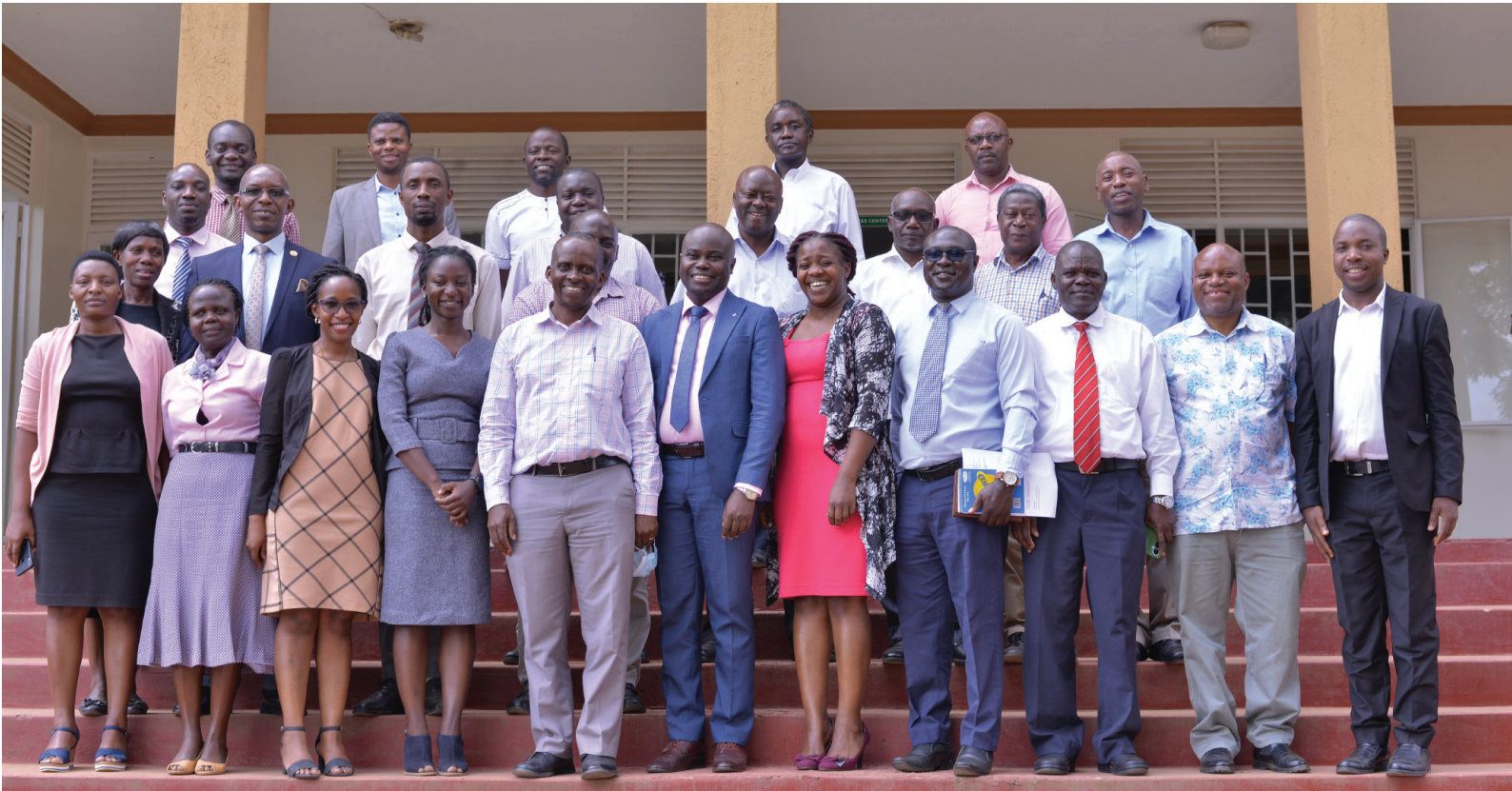
left Programme Director GHC- MUST-MGH Dr. Steven Assimwe handing a certificate to Dr. Howard Weinstein



Pakakini: The organizing team and sponsors take it down after a successful event

Ms. Annet Kembabazi thanked the host Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital and Mbarara University of Science and Technology in partnership with Global Health Collaborative: who supported the cause right from inception. Annet further thanked the sponsors who came through to this year to continue the supporting the run cause these included: Lions Club of Mbarara Central, Rotary Club of Mbarara, Mbarara Preparatory school, Centenary Bank Mbarara Branch, Pepsi Uganda, Vision group, and Vision Radio; among others organizations

## Leadership and Management Skills enhancement in the Faculty of Medicine



On Wednesday July 20, 2022, the office of the Dean, Faculty of Medicine (FoM) organized a training session for all its Heads of Departments (HoDs), Administrators, Committee Chairpersons, and their deputies with the aim of equipping the participants with leadership and management skills.

The facilitator of the day was **Prof. Patrick Kyamanywa**, the current Vice Chancellor of Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda, and former staff of MUST



According to **Dr. Joseph Ngonzi**, the Dean Faculty of Medicine (FoM), the training was a landmark endeavor in the Faculty, as staff need to continuously improve on their leadership skills through such trainings. He recognized the HoDs and other team members for their dedication towards serving and building the FoM which is the heart of MUST. He added that with the support of the university's top management, this kind of training will be held annually in order to boost performance in the entire Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Joseph Ngonzi, the Dean Faculty of Medicine

The training was officially opened by the Vice chancellor **Prof. Celestino Obua**, who thanked the leaders for their resilience towards dedicated work. He particularly thanked the Dean of the FoM, Dr. Joseph Ngonzi for brilliantly thinking about such an innovative idea of training the staff members on how to run their offices. “It is only through such trainings that people are prepared to become HoDs, Deans, Vice Chancellors, among other positions”. Said Prof. Obua.

The Vice Chancellor added that every leader needs to sharpen their Leadership and Management skills to be up to date with the changing dynamics of the workplace. He added that training in management skills could advance one’s career by equipping them with adequate knowledge in making the rational decisions, influencing positive change, enhancing performance, and grooming an individual into a better employee.



He concluded by thanking Prof. Kyamanywa for accepting to comeback to MUST to share his leadership and management experiences with others. **Prof. Kyamanywa** gave some insights on the different models of leadership styles. He also expounded on principles of team building, change of leadership, motivating and influencing effectively. He further tasked the leaders to be committed, accountable, honest, trustworthy – this, he intimated, are fundamental to better service delivery

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Celestino Obua giving his remarks

From a historical perspective, it is worth noting that the FoM is the pioneer Faculty of MUST which opened in 1989 with 43 enrolled students, and was built on the philosophy of Community-Based Education(CBE), research excellence, and Competency-Based Curriculum(CBC) for training health professionals.

The areas of focus for the FoM are

- Governance and Engagement
- Financial Resource Mobilization and Management
- Teaching and Research Infrastructure
- Human Resource Function
- ICT Infrastructure and Support Services
- Students and Staff support services



Prof. Patrick Kyamanywa, Facilitator of the day

# MUST unveils the Glaucoma Screening and Treatment Project



The Department of Ophthalmology on Thursday July 25, 2022 unveiled the Glaucoma Screening and Treatment (GLAST) project for South Western Uganda that will end in December 2024. The two billion Uganda Shillings project funded by the Christian Blind Mission (CBM) aims at contributing towards health systems strengthening by providing glaucoma screening and care in the South Western region of Uganda.

Glaucoma is a major cause of visual impairment and blindness. It manifests by causing progressive damage to the optic nerve, a vital structure responsible for transmitting images from the back of the eye to the brain for interpretation. The burden of glaucoma is highest in Sub Saharan Africa where the prevalence is estimated to be 4%, twice the global average.

“In Uganda we have many people who are at a very high risk of going blind because of the condition. Glaucoma is relatively more debilitating than some commonly known diseases such as diabetes mellitus, yet, not everyone knows about it. Individuals seek medical attention when it is too late, and doctors can do little to help at that stage. The condition doesn’t cause any pain, nor make the eye red – so it is imperative to get your eyes checked by a specialist at least one annually” said Dr. Simon Arunga the Principal Investigator of the GLAST project.

He explained that the key deliverables of project are to:

- 1] Develop and deliver glaucoma sensitization and awareness campaigns
- 2] Build capacity of the three Regional Referral Hospitals in Masaka, Kabale and Fort Portal by providing basic glaucoma diagnosis and treatment
- 3] Build capacity of 25 Health Centre four (HC IV) level facilities for the screening of glaucoma
- 4] Screen 100,000 adults for glaucoma, and
- 5] Diagnose and treat 2,000 new glaucoma patients.

The project will start by conducting a baseline assessment of the capacity of the health system to manage glaucoma. As part of institutional building of the region, the project has offered eye equipment that will support the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma at Mbarara University and Referral Hospital Eye Centre (MURHEC), Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, Kabale Regional Referral Hospital and Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital.

Giving his remarks, Dr. John Onyango, the Head of Department of Ophthalmology at MUST, and Co-PI of the GLAST Project appreciated the donated equipment.

“The equipment will benefit us in many ways. We have always had problems screening patients for glaucoma because we did not have advanced equipment; and with this donation, many of our patients will now be adequately screened and receive appropriate treatment for glaucoma. We are also going to conduct several eye surgeries; and as a teaching University our students who are trained to become eye specialists will have advanced training in eye examination and eye surgery,” Dr. Onyango said.



Ophthalmology Theater Unveiling the wall plaque of MUST- cbm



Dr. Simon making a presentation



Ms. Allen Asiimweshowing guests a low cost equipment used in treating Glaucoma



L-R: Mr. Fabian Schindler - International Programme Manager, Dr. John Onyango - HoD Ophthalmology, MUST, Mr. Melchoir Byaruhanga -University Secretary MUST, Jackie Marlene Kwesiga Kagombe - Country Director CBM, Dr. Demissie Tadesse - the Regional Advisor East African Region, Dr. Simon Arunga lecturer MUST

The CBM team was led by Dr. Demissie Tadesse – the Regional Advisor for the East African Region, Mr. Fabian Schindler – the International Program Manager and Ms. Jackie Marlene Kwesiga Kagombe – the CBM Country Director.

Ms. Kwesiga appreciated the initial achievements so far attained, and pledged continued support to MUST in addressing eye health challenges. “The main aspects of the project are procurement of high-tech eye equipment, buying consumables and medicine, as well as capacity building for health workers. “The project implementers are also tasked with finding other challenges affecting the communities” she concluded.

Dr. Demissie Tadesse was grateful that CBM funded the GLAST project that will tackle a critical area which has not been given much attention in the past. He emphasized the need for massive sensitization to enable the population understand what glaucoma is, and how it can be treated

MUST University Secretary, Mr. Melchoir Byaruhanga who was in attendance hailed the collaboration spirit by CBM. He added that the project is very helpful to community members in the region, many of whom mostly rely on untested local herbs as treatment for their eye conditions. He then concluded by thanking CBM for the support they have always given the Department of Ophthalmology in offering student scholarships, staff capacity building and towards the construction of the MURHEC.

The GLAST Project indeed advances MUST’s niche of community engagement



L-R Dr. Simon Arunga, Dr. John Onyango and Mr. Melchoir Byaruhanga

# The monthly MUST Institutional repository report

We encourage individuals to share links of their publication, as the computer services team is working out an automatic system to capture all staff from the different websites. For this and more please go to the link: [ir@must.ac.ug](mailto:ir@must.ac.ug) congratulations to our researchers

Community	Number of Publications in March	Number of Publications in April	Number of Publications in May	Number of Publications in June	Number of Publications in July
Central Administration	60	66	66	66	75
Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology	25	30	36	36	36
Faculty of Business and Management Sciences	17	41	41	46	46
Faculty of Computing and Informatics	73	76	82	86	86
Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies	107	107	107	108	108
Faculty of Medicine	663	879	993	1073	1194
Faculty of Science	203	204	204	213	217
Institute of tropical Forest and Conservation	77	88	89	92	93
Maternal Newborn and Child Health Institute	10	18	16	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1235</b>	<b>1503</b>	<b>1634</b>	<b>1740</b>	<b>1875</b>

## Individual Ranking June 2022

Name	Number of Publications in March	Number of Publications in April	Number of Publications in May	Number of Publications in June	Number of Publications in July
Dr. Francis Bajunirwe	107	111	115	117	119
Dr. Conrad Muzoora	31	36	102	103	104
Dr. David Bangsberg	38	50	82	84	87
Dr. Joseph Ngonzi	43	70	76	81	82
Dr. Godfrey Zari Rukundo	26	29		82	85
Assoc.Prof. Joel Bazira	63	75	78	78	79
Prof. Celestino Obua	43	52	53	59	75
Prof. Robert Bitariho	26	56	57	61	62
Dr. Haberer, Jessica	27	38	59	61	62
Dr. Siedner, Mark J	30	38	58	61	62
Prof. Jerome Kabakyenga				56	57
Dr. Scholastic Ashaba	42	42	44	49	51
Dr. Hunt Peter			47	47	50
Dr. Angella Musiimenta			47	47	50
Tsai Alexandar	35	45	45	45	48

For this and more please go to the link: [ir.must.ac.ug](mailto:ir.must.ac.ug) congratulations to our researchers

**EDITOR**



Compiled by Angella Nakato Musingo: PRO. Proudly sponsored by the Vice Chancellor's Office